From: Waterline2@aol.com@inetgw

To: Microsoft ATR **Date:** 1/15/02 10:55am

Subject: my opinion on the Microsoft Case

- 1. Actually, I am tired of it and fairly fed up with the procedure that has taken a well-run free trade business and practically brought it to its knees. As if it isn't hard enough to make a go of a business, the government steps in to slap their hand becuase of the belly aching of companies that are jealous of its success.
- 2. Perhaps Microsoft did create a situation where the competition didn't have as good a chance at succeeding, but they also did a lot to bring the common housewife like me into the 21st century. I am glad there is a Microsoft and a Bill Gates. He built the empire and we came. And we love him for it.
- 3. I don't know Bill Gates and he has never heard of me and probably the sun will set on me before this thing ends....at this rate. Please, let him go back to doing his business so we can ALL prosper. Good management taking care of his employees and giving us the tools we need to get our jobs done...isn't that the American way?
- 4. Some businesses, like Enron, didn't need the Government's help to do a miserable job and at getting into a mess. Get the Government out of Bill's business and let him finish the work he started. Slap his hands just a little if you have to do something, but do it and get it over with so we can all go forward.
- 5. All of this business with the unfair advantage happened so many years ago in a different business climate. The Government should be shaking the man's hand instead of slapping it for doing the American dream....and for helping us live the American dream.

If you wish to reach me for any other comments, my name is Alice Van de Water 1694 San Leandro Lane Santa Barbara, CA 93108 (805) 969-4438

I am 59 years old and have never personally purchased any Microsoft stock. I own 800 shares, which my husband bought in about 1994 or 1995 - he passed away about 3 and a half years ago. I also own Microsoft in my Keogh - and I believe another financial advisor purchased some for another account I have. Obviously, I want the stock to do well, but my comments are from my heart, not from my pocketbook.